

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1991

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

USINT CAIRO IMMEDIATE

RUESKGXAMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE 3756

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 5572

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UN XF FR

SUBJ: MIDDLE EAST: FRENCH POSITION ON SECURITY COUNCIL

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH AMB SCHAUFLE DEC 11 FRENCH
DEP PERMREP LECOMPT KINDICATED THAT FRENCH NOT ONLY WANT
FORMAL SC MEETING PRIOR TO GENEVA CONFERENCE BUT ALSO MUCH
STRONGER LANGUAGE THAN THAT CONTAINED IN PRESENT NON-ALIGNED
(INDIAN) DRAFT, OPERATIVE PARA 2.

2. REGARDING FORMAL MEETING LECOMPT SAID THAT FAILURE
TO HOLD ONE WOULD DENIGRATE IMPORTANCE OF SC. WHEN
SCHAUFLE ASKED HOW ONE COULD ASSURE THERE WOULD BE NO
DAMAGING POLEMICS, PARTICULARLY SINCE THE PARTIES WOULD
HAVE TO BE SEATED AT THE TABLE, LECOMPT HAD OBVIOUSLY
NOT THOUGHT OF LATTER COMPLICATION TO WHICH HE DID NOT
HAVE REPLY. BUT THEN HE WENT ON TO STATE THAT MEETING
COULD BE ORCHESTRATED IN ADVANCE TO AVOID UNDESIRABLE DEVELOP-
MENTS. SCHAUFLE EXPRESSED COUBT THAT WE COULD ALL REST
EASY THAT NOTHING UNFORTUNATE WOULD HAPPEN IN PUBLIC
DISCUSSION OF THIS VOLATILE ISSUE. FINALLY STATED THAT
HE COULD SEE NOTHING WHICH COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED IN FORMAL
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MEETING THAT COULD NOT BE ACHIEVED IN INFORMAL

CONSENSUS.

3. REGARDING OPERATIVE PARA 2 OF NON-ALIGNED WORKING PAPER: QUOTE: EXPRESSES THE HOPE THAT THE SECRETARY GENERAL WILL PLAY A USEFUL ROLE AT THE PEACE CONFERENCE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RELEVANT (OR APPROPRIATE) RESOLUTIONS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND THAT HE WILL PRESIDE OVER ITS PROCEEDINGS, IF THE PARTIES SO DESIRE: END QUOTE, LECOMPT SAID THIS LANGUAGE NOT NEARLY STRONG ENOUGH. FRANCE WOULD PREFER THAT SC AUTHORIZE SYG PARTICIPATION. AS PRINCIPAL REASONS HE ADDUCED (1) NEED TO RETAIN SC ROLE AND AUTHORITY ON ME ISSUE AND (2) CONSISTENT APPLICATION OF ART 100 OF CHARTER WHICH PROHIBITS SYG FROM TAKING INSTRUCTIONS FROM GOVERNMENTS.

4. SCHAUFELER POINTED OUT THAT GENEVA CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD UNDER UN AUSPICES AND IN CONTEXT PERTINENT SC RESOLUTIONS, ESPECIALLY 242. THEREFORE THERE DID NOT SEEM TO BE ANY DANGER OF DOWNGRADING SC. NONE OF PERTINENT RESOLUTIONS SPELL OUT MODALITIES OF HOW FINAL ME SETTLEMENT SHOULD BE ACHIEVED.

5. REGARDING ART 100 SCHAUFELER SAID THERE NO QUESTION OF SYG RECEIVING INSTRUCTIONS FROM GOVERNMENTS. HE POINTED OUT THAT SYG TRIP TO ME EARLIER THIS YEAR WAS NOT AUTHORIZED BY SC. WHEN LECOMPT SAID THIS WAS INFORMATION TRIP, SCHAUFELER STATED THAT LINE WAS VERY DIFFICULT TO DRAW. IF SYG HAD COME BACK WITH REAL PROGRESS, FRANCE, ALONG WITH US, WOULD HAVE BEEN AMONG FIRST TO PRAISE HIS EFFORTS.

6. REGARDING "CONSISTENT" APPLICATION OF ART 100 SCHAUFELER POINTED OUT THAT FRANCE HAD FREQUENTLY OPPOSED AND WITHHELD FUNDS FOR - SYG ACTIVITIES TAKEN UNDER AUTHORITY OF ANOTHER UN ORGAN. SPECIFICALLY CITED PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS UNDER "UNITING FOR PEACE" RESOLUTION WHICH FRANCE HAD SUPPORTED. LECOMPT SEEMED SOMEWHAT ABASHED AT THIS REFERENCE.

7. FINALLY, SCHAUFELER POINTED OUT THAT FRENCH INTERPRETATION OF ART 100 WOULD HAMSTRING SYG WHO ACTS FREQUENTLY AT REQUEST OF ONE OR MORE GOVERNMENTS, EVEN TO EXTENT OF PROVIDING GOOD OFFICES.

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8. COMMENT: WE DOUBT THAT THIS MADE MUCH IMPRESSION AS WE DISCOVER MORE AND MORE THAT FRENCH FOR THEIR OWN PURPOSES ARE PLAYING DAMAGING ROLE IN ENCOURAGING NON-ALIGNED TO MAKE WAVES ON THIS ISSUE.

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